

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 21-011

Introduced by Council President Vincenti at the request of the County Executive and Council

President Vincenti and Council Members Johnson, Woods, Giangiordano, Shrodes, Wagner and Beulah

Legislative Day No. 21-014 Date May 4, 2021

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Article XII, Commission on Veterans' Affairs, of Part 2, Nonbinding Advisory Boards, of Chapter 9, Boards, Commissions, Councils and Agencies, of the Harford County Code, as amended; to rename the Commission after James V. "Capt'n Jim" McMahan; and generally relating to the Commission on Veterans' Affairs.

By the Council, May 4, 2021

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled:

on: June 1, 2021

at: 6:00 PM

By Order: *Mylia A. Dixon*, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on _____, and concluded on _____.

_____, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

1 WHEREAS, James V. “Capt’n Jim” McMahan was a lifetime resident of Harford County; and

2 WHEREAS, Capt’n Jim was a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps and served in
3 the 128th Signal Company and the 972 Signal Battalion; and

4 WHEREAS, Capt’n Jim was awarded an Army Commendation, the National Defense Ribbon,
5 the Reserve Component Ribbon and the Maryland Army National Guard Meritorious Service Award;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Capt’n Jim retired as a Colonel after 30 years of service in the Army Reserves
8 and the Maryland Army National Guard; and

9 WHEREAS, Capt’n Jim was presented with the Army Public Service Award by Major General
10 Randy S. Taylor; and

11 WHEREAS, Capt’n Jim was appointed in 2006 to the Commission on Veterans’ Affairs as the
12 Council Liaison and was instrumental in the 2011 legislative reorganization of the Commission; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2015, Capt’n Jim was appointed by County Executive Barry Glassman to
14 revitalize the Commission on Veterans’ Affairs; and

15 WHEREAS, Capt’n Jim established the yearly Veterans’ Fair, which was created to provide
16 resources and opportunities for veterans in Harford County; and

17 WHEREAS, Capt’n Jim is fondly remembered as a patriot who loved his country.

18 NOW, THEREFORE,

19 Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Article XII,
20 Commission on Veterans’ Affairs, of Part 2, Nonbinding Advisory Boards, of Chapter 9, Boards,
21 Commissions, Councils and Agencies, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby,
22 repealed and reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:

23 **Chapter 9. Boards, Commissions, Councils and Agencies**

24 **Part 2. Nonbinding Advisory Boards**

25 **Article XII. JAMES V. “CAPT’N JIM” MCMAHAN Commission on Veterans’ Affairs**

26 **§ 9-75. Creation.**

There is hereby established a JAMES V. "CAPT'N JIM" MCMAHAN Commission on Veterans' Affairs consisting of 13 members.

§ 9-76. Membership.

A. The County Executive shall appoint the members of the JAMES V. "CAPT'N JIM" MCMAHAN Commission on Veterans' Affairs subject to confirmation by the County Council, except for the member, appointed by the Council.

B. The County Executive shall appoint 8 members who are veterans and may be a member of a veterans' group such as the following:

- (1) Vietnam Veterans of America;
- (2) Navy-Marine Corps League;
- (3) Disabled American Veterans;
- (4) Veterans of Foreign Wars;
- (5) Women's Army Corps Veterans Association;
- (6) American Legion;
- (7) Military Order of the Purple Heart;
- (8) Military Officers Association of America; or
- (9) Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.

C. The County Executive shall also appoint 4 members to represent the general public.

D. The County Council shall appoint 1 member to serve.

E. The County Executive shall designate the following as ex-officio members:

- (1) The Garrison Commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground, or the Commander's designee;
- (2) A representative from Harford Community College familiar with veterans' educational

issues; and

(3) A representative from the Harford County Chamber of Commerce.

F. The term of each member shall be coterminous with that of the County Executive.

G. The County Executive shall designate the Chairperson, and the members shall designate the Vice-Chairperson and Secretary.

H. In the event an appointment is made to fill a vacancy before a term expires, the successor shall serve the rest of the unexpired term.

§ 9-77. Duties and responsibilities.

The duties of the Commission are:

A. To research, assemble, analyze and disseminate information and educational materials relating to activities and programs that will assist in meeting the needs of veterans and their families;

B. To institute and conduct educational and other programs, meetings and conferences to promote the rights and opportunities for veterans;

C. To advise the County Executive and County Council on the status of programs and services in the state and County related to the needs of veterans and their families; and

D. To assist in planning appropriate public acknowledgment of the contributions made by veterans and assist in planning commemoration activities recognizing the contributions made by veterans.

§ 9-78. Staff; meeting compensation.

A. The County may provide staff support to the Commission.

B. The meetings of the Commission shall be called by the Chairperson. The Commission shall meet as often as necessary to perform its duties but not less than 9 times per year.

C. A member may be removed only for cause by the County Executive, subject to the approval of

the County Council.

D. Any member missing three consecutive meetings shall be deemed to have terminated his or her membership on the Commission unless the Commission shall, by majority vote, excuse one or more of the absences.

E. The members shall receive no compensation for their service but may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

§ 9-79. Adoption of regulations.

The Commission shall adopt such regulations as deemed necessary to govern its procedures and business. Such regulations shall be adopted in accordance with Section 807 of the Charter of Harford County.

§ 9-80. Annual report.

The Commission shall submit an annual report on its functions, activities and accomplishments to the County Executive and County Council and any other appropriate agency by July 1 of each year.

§ 9-81. Advocacy.

The Commission shall not engage in any advocacy activities at the state or federal levels unless approved by the County Executive.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from the date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE:

The Council Administrator does hereby certify that seven (7) copies of this Bill are immediately available for distribution to the public and the press.



Council Administrator